

Amendments to Claims**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A programmable logic device, comprising a comparator arranged upon the device for comparing embedded code also upon the device with a software identifier placed within a program used to program the device to a user-specified design, and for determining whether, when programmed, the device is configured to fall within the scope of one or more license obligations.
2. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the embedded code is unalterable by the user of the device.
3. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the embedded code is conveyed from a mask to a semiconductor topography bearing the device.
4. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the embedded code is permanently programmed upon at least one non-volatile storage location of the device.
5. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the embedded code comprises at least one bit that signifies said one or more license obligations between a vendor or licensor of intellectual property and a manufacturer of the device.
6. (Original) The device as recited in claim 5, wherein the embedded code is sent from the licensor of the intellectual property to the manufacturer of the device.
7. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the software identifier comprises at least one bit that signifies said one or more license obligations between a vendor or licensor of intellectual property and a manufacturer of the device.

8. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the software identifier is sent from the licensor of the intellectual property to the user of the device.

9. (Original) The device as recited in claim 1, wherein the license obligations are royalty payments due to a vendor or licensor of intellectual property, and wherein the program is used to configure the device to function within the scope of the intellectual property owned by the vendor or licensor.

10. - 20. (Canceled)